

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The direct-fed microbial of claim 19~~ A direct-fed microbial comprising:

_____ (a) at least one biologically pure bacterial culture of a *Lactobacillus* strain that has a the Profile I based on *Apa* I, *Not* I and *Xba* I digests, as shown in Figure 1A, Figure 1B, and Table 6, wherein the strain is *L. brevis* strain 1E-1 ATCC Accession No. PTA-6509, and

_____ (b) a carrier.

Claims 23-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The *Lactobacillus* strain of claim 30~~ An isolated *Lactobacillus* strain that has the Profile I based on *Apa* I, *Not* I and *Xba* I digests, as shown in Figure 1 and Table 6, wherein the strain is *L. brevis* strain 1E-1 ATCC Accession No. PTA-6509.

Claims 34-41 (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) ~~The isolated *Lactobacillus* strain of claim 40~~ An isolated *Lactobacillus* strain that is *L. brevis* strain 1E-1 ATCC Accession No. PTA-6509 or a *Lactobacillus* strain having the same genomic DNA profile based on *Apa* I, *Not* I and *Xba* I digests as strain 1E-1, wherein the *Lactobacillus* strain decreases levels of coliforms within the gastrointestinal tract of an animal.

43. (Previously Presented) An isolated *Lactobacillus brevis* strain 1E-1 ATCC Accession No. PTA-6509.

44. (Currently Amended) An isolated *Lactobacillus brevis* strain having all the identifying characteristics of the *Lactobacillus brevis* strain of claim 43.